

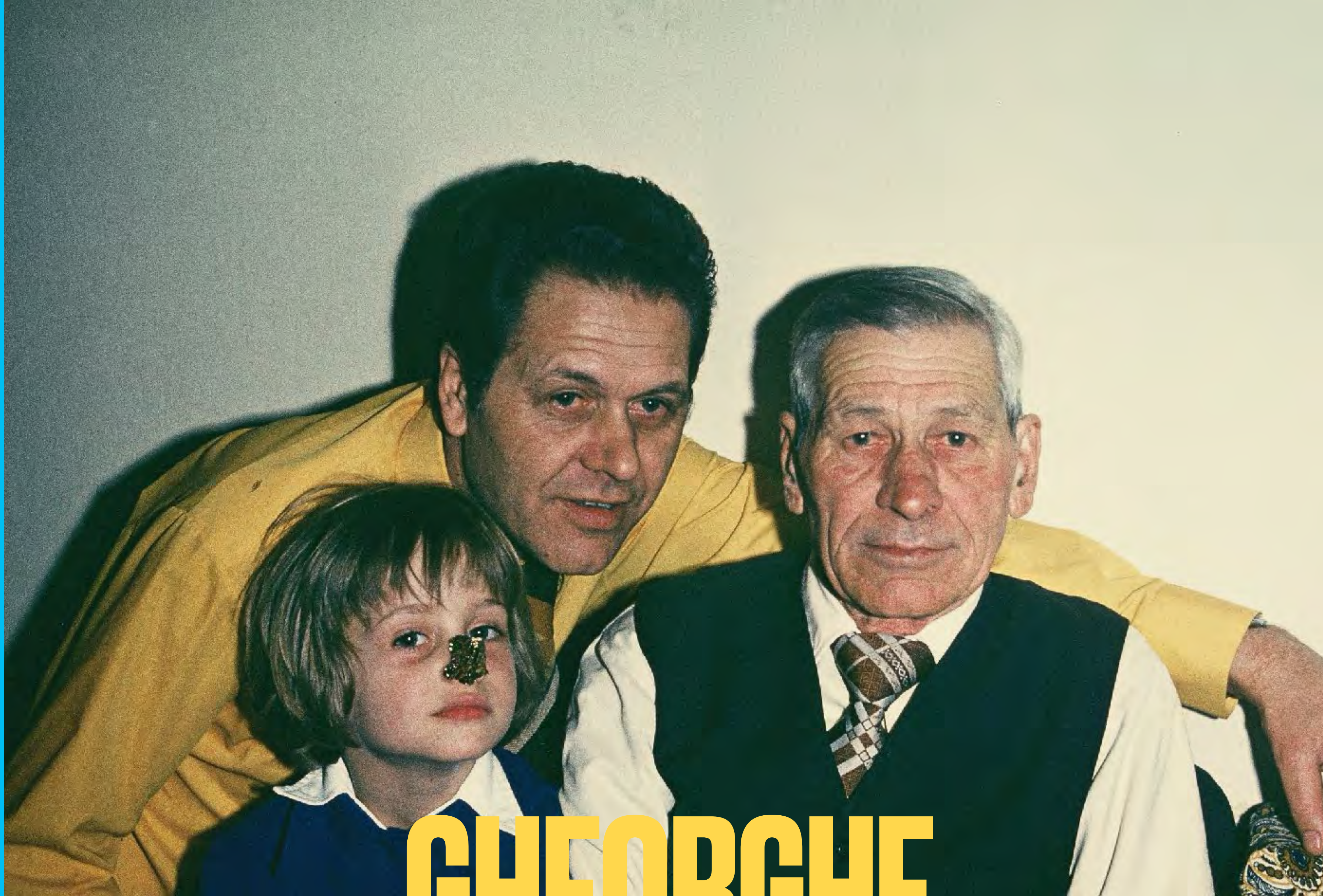
A night scene in a cemetery. A large bonfire of sticks and branches is burning brightly in the center-left. Several people are standing around the fire. In the background, there are numerous tombstones and crosses, some of which are illuminated by small lights. The sky is dark, and the overall atmosphere is somber and reflective.

WHO IS

# MUGUR VĂRZARIU?

filmmaker, documentary photographer, advocate for change





Nephew of Gheorghe, a  
Romanian peasant who  
resisted collectivization.

GHEORGHE



# A REBEL WITH A CAUSE

- A kid who always stood by his friends
- A teen for whom the saying “a bowed head avoids the sword” held no meaning









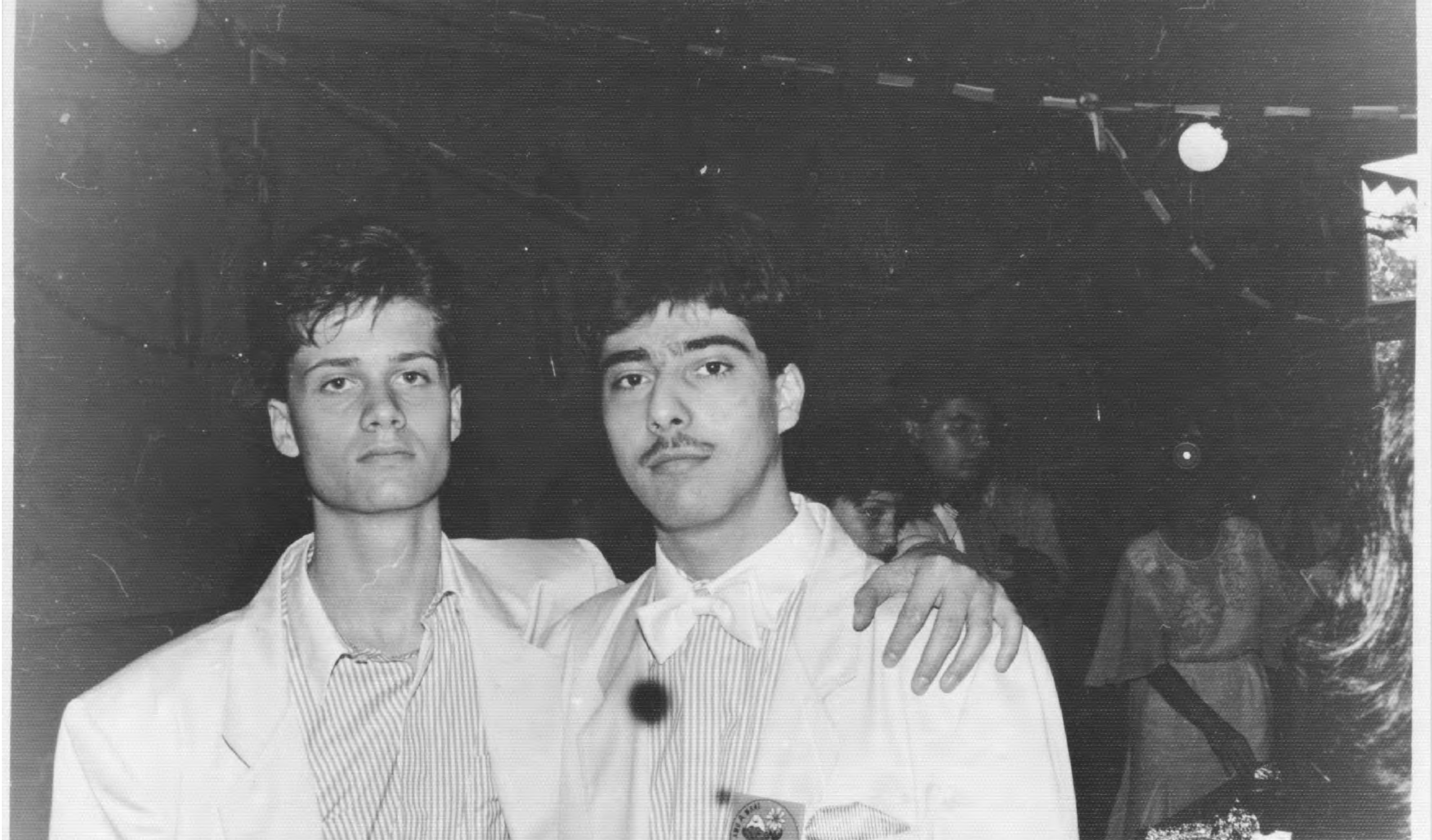




# THE STUDENT FROM CLASS A

- he student whose school board banned a teacher from teaching his class
- The only student ever invited home by the college director, one year after graduation







lui MUGUREL,  
Copilului năzdrăvan care  
va pune mereu în inimă  
lui, lui Mugurel ni căutății  
lui de adevăr, de lumină,  
lui Mugurel mi simțiment  
cald pe care îl va găsi întot-  
deauna în sufletul meu!

R.Z.





# THE EXPLORER

- After graduating high school in 1989, he went to France and Italy—not to work, but to discover the universal values he had only read about in books















# THE SCHOLAR

- Graduate of the Academy of Economic Studies
- EMBA graduate
- Completed 3 years of law studies—not to practice law, but to grow through understanding

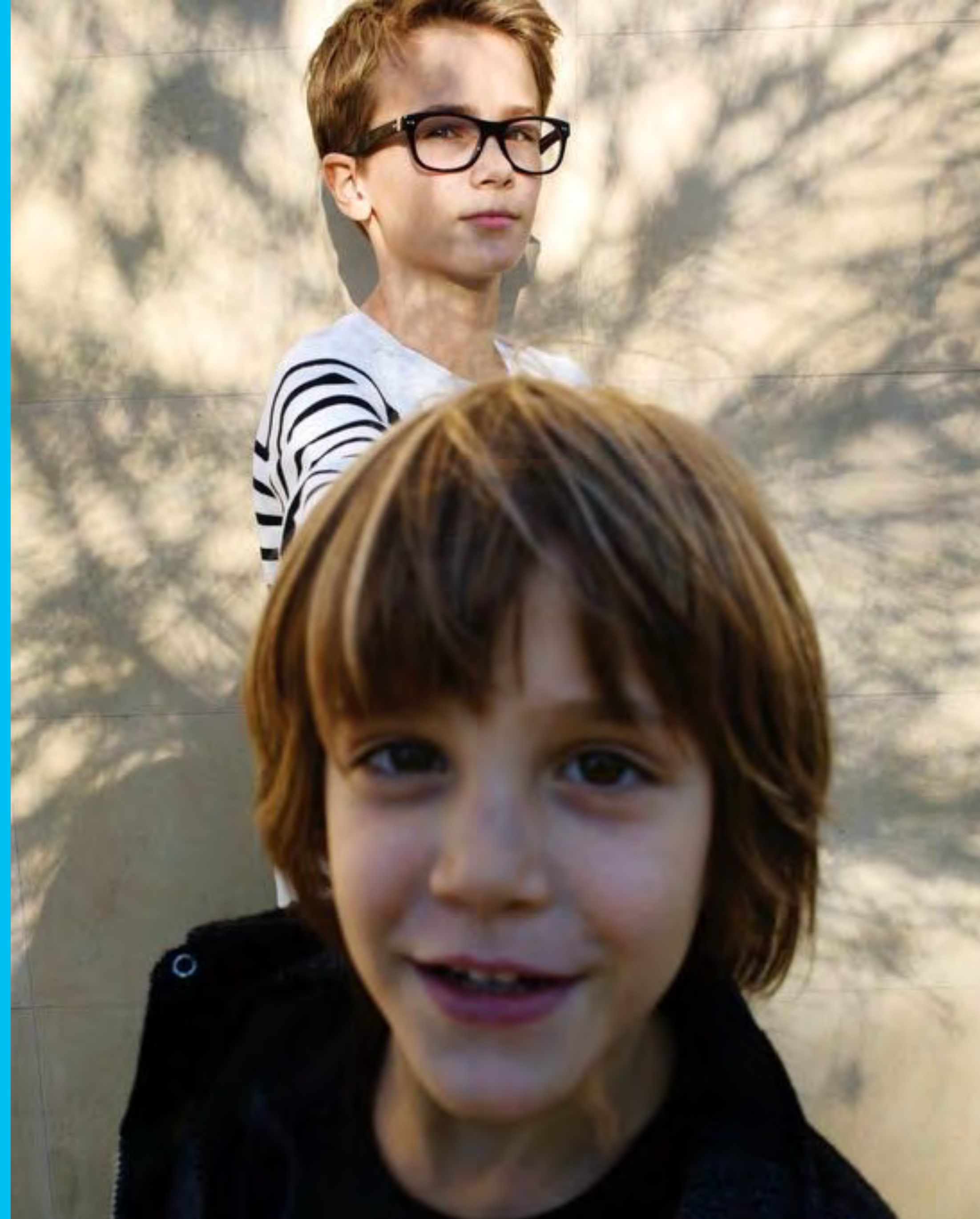






# **BLESSED** **FAMILY MAN**

- Husband to Florina and father to Marc and Aron
- 26 years of marriage





# THE STRATEGIST

- Over 15 years of corporate experience
- Four years with Unilever USCE
- Strategic planner at Grey Worldwide, Tempo Advertising, and Saatchi & Saatchi
- Founder of Trout & Partners Romania (marketing strategy and positioning)











# THE SUPPORTER OF EDUCATION

- A passionate supporter and believer in education.
- He spoke in schools and high schools, both in Romania and abroad. He organized monthly meetings and a visit to Valea Plopului for students from IL Caragiale High School. He talked to young people about human rights, respect, compassion, and the fight against racism, misogyny, extremism, xenophobia, and more.





„SĂ NE TINEM DE LIMBA, DE ISTORIA  
NOASTRĂ, CUM SE TINE UN OM ÎN PRI-  
MEJDIA DE A SE ÎNECA DE PRĂJINA CE  
I SE ARUNCĂ SPRE SCĂPARE”.

*Mr. Kogălnicean*

220V











# THE SOCIAL WRITER

- Since 2006, he has written on a wide range of social, political, and economic topics



Cei care nu au mai trecut frontiera / Cortina de gheață

ROMÂNIA  
**Newsweek**®

ANUL 4 ■ NUMĂRUL 121  
■ PREȚ: 14,90 LEI ■ 4-17.06.2021

# MĂRIREA ȘI DECĂDEREA MINERILOR

În anii '90, minerii făceau  
legea în România. După mai  
bine de 30 de ani, greșelile

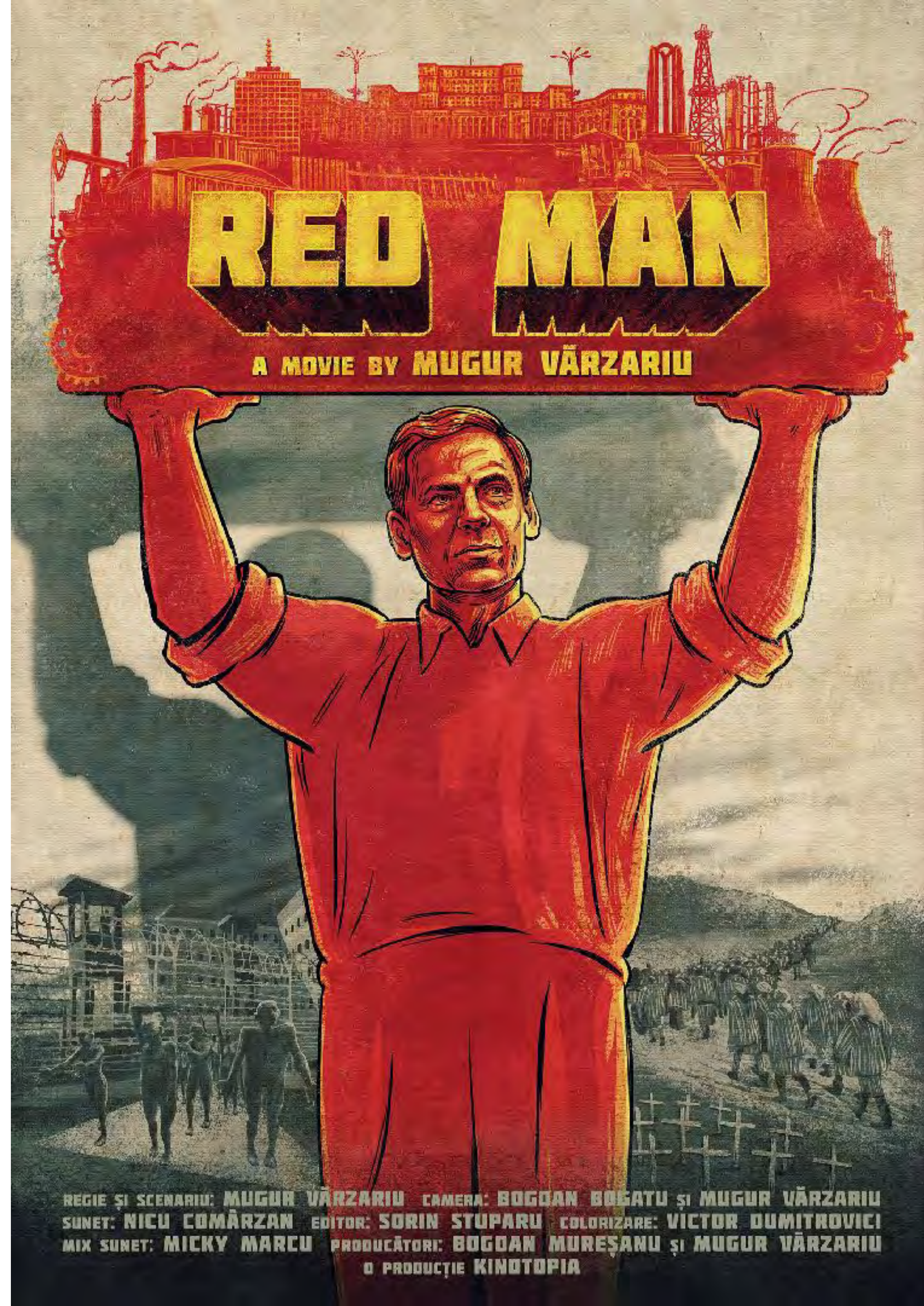




# THE MOVIE MAKER

- The Red Man (Cinepolitica Honorable Mention, IPIFF Finalist)
- We Survive to Tell the Tale (IPIFF Finalist)





REGIE ȘI SCENARIU: MUGUR VĂRZARIU CAMERA: BOGDAN BOGATU ȘI MUGUR VĂRZARIU  
SUNET: NICU COMĂRZAN EDITOR: SORIN STUPARU COLORIZARE: VICTOR DUMITROVICI  
MIX SUNET: MICKY MARCU PRODUCĂTORI: BOGDAN MUREȘANU ȘI MUGUR VĂRZARIU  
O PRODUȚIE KINOTOPIA

# SUPRAVIEȚUIM SĂ POVESTIM

UN FILM DE  
MUGUR VĂRZARIU



NĂRAT DE: MAIA MORGENSTERN  
REGIE ȘI SCENARIU: MUGUR VĂRZARIU IMAGINE: MUGUR VĂRZARIU ȘI BOGDAN BOGATU  
VIDEO EDITARE: SORIN STUPARU COLORIZARE: VICTOR DUMITROVICI SCENE RECONȘTUIRE: SORIN SORĂȘAN  
FOTOGRAFIE: MUGUR VĂRZARIU EDITARE SUNET: MICHE MARCU  
PRODUCATOR: BOGDAN MUREȘANU PRODUCATOR EXECUTIV: MUGUR VĂRZARIU  
KINOTOPIA



# ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

- Left the corporate world in 2010
  - Chose photography as a tool for social impact, especially in defending Roma rights
  - First Romanian photographer selected as a Canon Explorer
  - Ambassador for World Vision
- 
- Champion of causes: legal drugs, prostitution, segregation, access to education and healthcare, Holocaust remembrance, etc.



**Canon**

News

Product

Education

Inspiration

Q Search...

## Don McCullin - Seeking The Light

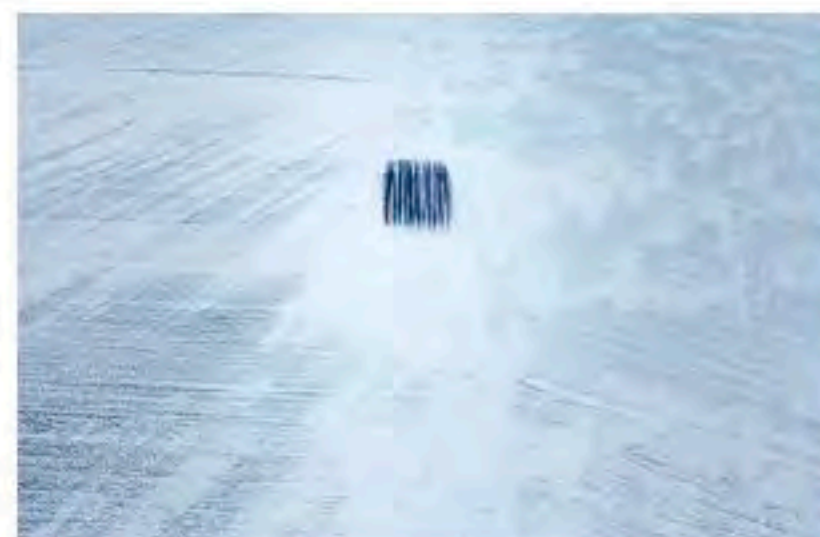
A documentary shot in the South of France in June 2012 featuring the legendary Don McCullin and Canon Ambassador Jeff Ascough. Press play!



(c) Alessandra Meniconzi

NEWS

### Canon Explorers win awards in photo competitions



NEWS

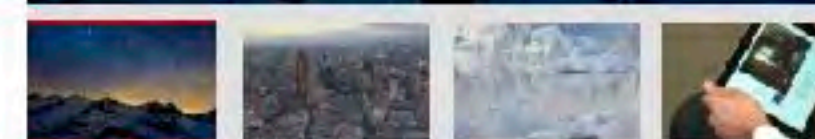
Canon Ambassadors Programme welcomes new Explorers

#### HIGHLIGHTS



NEWS

Canon becomes a principal partner of the Berlinale Talent Campus



TECHNICAL

#### LATEST ARTICLES

NEWS

WPhoto 2013  
Multimedia  
winners

NEWS

Canon Explorers  
win awards

NEWS

Santiago Lyon  
replaces Gary  
Knight in 2013  
World Press Photo

INTERVIEWS

Joe Petersburger  
gets closer to  
nature

NEWS

EOS-1D X  
firmware 1.2.1  
available















# THE DEFENDER OF THE VULNERABLE

- He stopped forced evictions (in Baia Mare, Caracal, Mangalia, Focșani), secured over €150,000 in compensation and social housing for Roma families in Eforie Sud, won a final court ruling for the demolition of the segregation wall on Horea Street in Baia Mare, helped a police officer regain custody in court of her daughter, who had been held by an abusive father, and more.







































**MUGUR, 2025**

# **PUBLIC ENEMY NO.1**

- Fought the mayor of Baia Mare for 14 years over the segregation wall—won demolition in 2024
- Prevented the demolition of Craica, an informal Roma settlement, despite public promises to “clean the city”







14 years of work. Alone.  
Meetings with the mayor,  
Amnesty International,  
BBC

# CRAICA - BAIA MARE







# FIRST TO ARRIVE

## LAST TO LEAVE

Monitored and helped  
prevent forced evictions:  
Cluj, Piatra Neamț, Eforie  
Sud, Caracal, Focșani,  
Mangalia









MUGUR, 2025

# MEETINGS

- George Soros
- Romanian Academy 'Roma VS Gypsy'
- EU assigned Attorney
- EU parliament





# RECOGNITION SOCIAL WORK

— UNICEF POY 2011











Exhibition & Speech  
“Wall-Free Europe”

**EU PARLIAMENT**





MUGUR, 2025

# EU PARLIAMENTARY HEARING

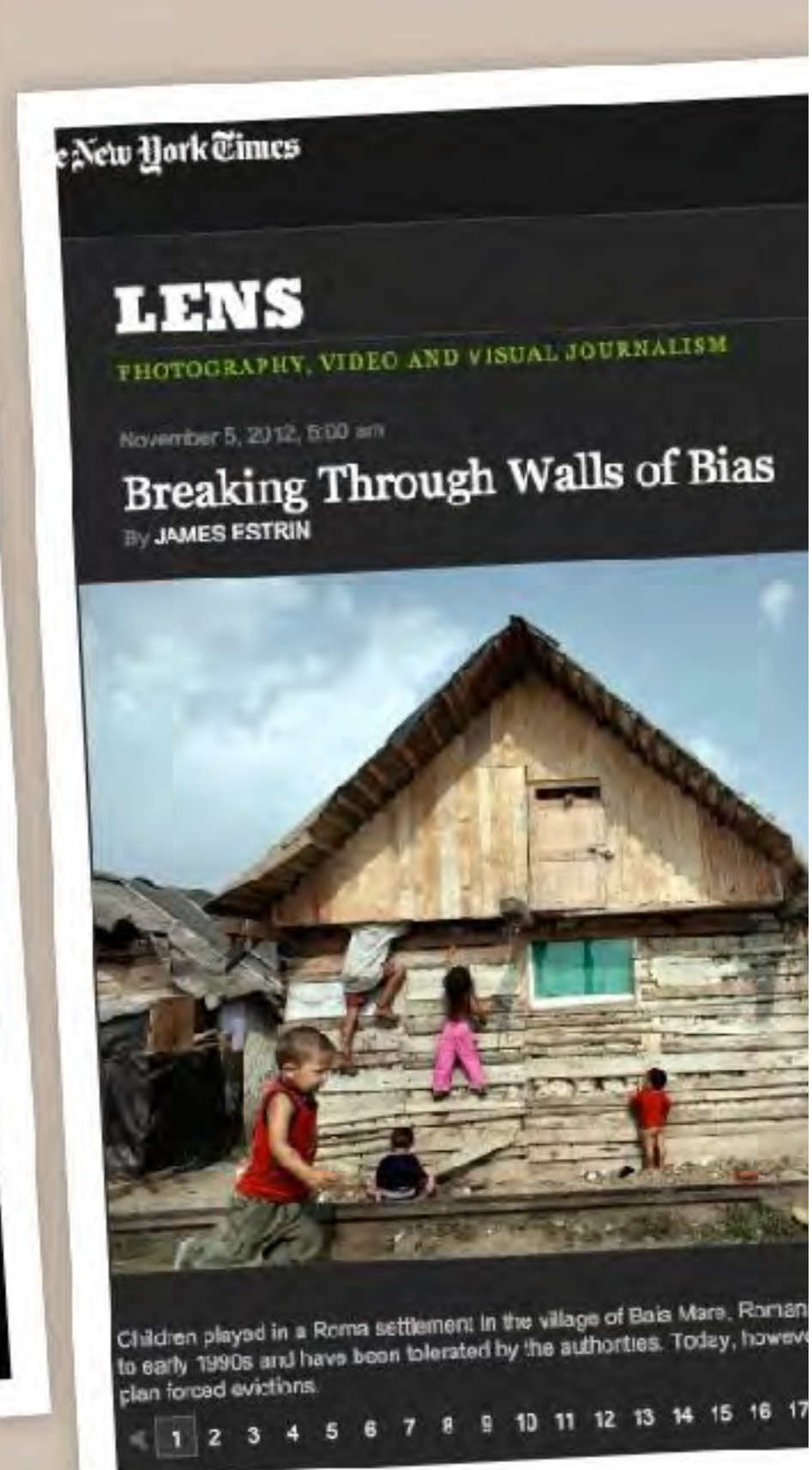
- Invited speaker at the 25th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall





# MEDIA EXPOSURE







# TRUSTED PARTNER

- Amnesty International – commissioned & volunteer
- Invited by embassies to speak about Roma issues
- Invited by the World Bank to discuss housing conditions for vulnerable groups
- Invited speaker at the European Parliament



**KARMA**







MUGUR, 2025

THE DALAI LAMA

- His Holiness recalled their brief meeting and mentioned it on his website, during conferences in India and Washington, D.C.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking during celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Swami Vivekananda in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India on January 7, 2014. Photo/Jeremy Russell/OHHDL

His Holiness mentioned his respect for Swami Vivekananda and that he has been to Kanyakumari where he began the journey that culminated in his famously attending the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago all those years ago. He expressed his admiration for Swami Vivekananda, not only for his dedicated spiritual practice, but also for his broad, far-sighted vision. He said he has also attended meetings of the World Parliament of Religions, most recently in Melbourne, Australia. However, he feels that while it offers the opportunity to talk, the Parliament is not as active as it was in Vivekananda's time.

His Holiness noted that India is one of the world's great civilizations with ancient roots reaching back to a history that is distinguished by the line of great teachers it has produced. He recalled his friend Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, the Indian nuclear scientist sometimes known as the Indian Sakharov, telling him that he had read in Nagarjuna's writings explanations that pre-empted quantum physics by almost 2,000 years.

One of the most important ancient Indian ideas is 'ahimsa', non-violence, which I consider to be the most important passion in action. It doesn't mean weakness, cowering in fear, or simply doing nothing. It is to act without violence, recognising the rights of others. The motivation is 'karuna', compassion, and the action is 'ahimsa', non-violence.

My country has given rise to many great spiritual traditions and in due course other great traditions have come here, the Parsees, as well as followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam have been joining those who have come and settled in India. These major religious traditions live together peacefully here side by side. Of course, there may be upsets now and then, but by and large they are rare."

His Holiness recalled meeting a Jain monk in Rajasthan who was promoting inter-religious harmony. He told him of a Muslim village he had found where about 4500 people among whom three Hindu families lived securely and happily. His Holiness declared that among all the countries of the world India is a model of how people of different faiths can live together in peace. India shows that living with pluralism, tolerance and inter-religious harmony is possible. He cited the example of his friends who told him that India's democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech and freedom of the media are successful because of India's long tradition of tolerance, the ability to accept and respect other sometimes opposing points of view. He mentioned the Charvakas, ancient hedonist philosophers, who rejected spiritual pursuits, but whose teachers were nevertheless referred to as Rishis in ancient times.



Schoolchildren in the garb of Vivekananda attending celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Swami Vivekananda in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India on January 7, 2014. Photo/Jeremy Russell/OHHDL

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- 2006
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  - [November](#)



# AVAILABLE FOR

- Corporate (team building) photography workshops
- Corporate assignments
- Inspirational talks on human rights and using photography as a tool for change



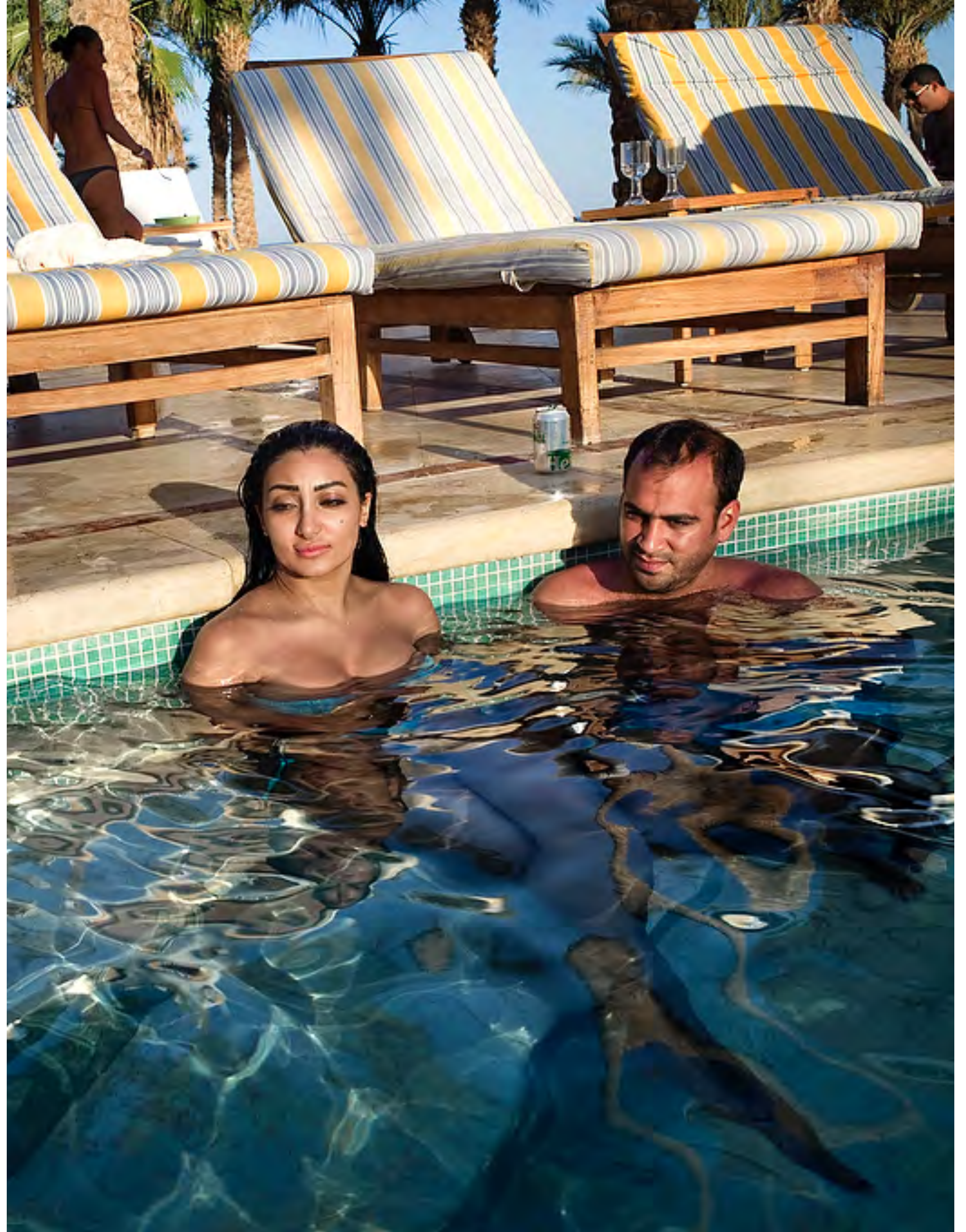
**TEAM BUILDING**



# TEAM BUILDING

- Photography workshops during corporate retreats:
- Learn how to make the most of your semi-professional camera—for personal or business use







# CORPORATE ASSIGNMENTS





# GM MEETING

GM meetings, internal communication—your events don't have to be dull







Coverage of social  
impact initiatives, like  
HIV drug access—  
pharmaceutical industry

# HIV DRUG ACCESS





**INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER**







# INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

- **Themes:**
  - **Personal development**
  - **Strategy & determination**
  - **Human rights**
  - **Social responsibility through visual storytelling**



**MUGUR, 2025**

# **SPEAKER TO YOUTH**

- Invited by high schools and universities: Lauder-Reut, I.L. Caragiale (monthly), CN Aurel Vlaicu, CN Grigore Moisil, Avram Iancu School, IEFC Barcelona, Tedex





# MESSAGES FROM KIDS ON FB

- **“Thank you... I admire your work.”**
- **“Thank you for promoting humanity. God created us to love one another, not attack.”**
- **“Thank you from a teenager who is not racist and wants to live in a free, democratic country where children have rights.”**
- **“Your visit helped promote social responsibility and combat discrimination. Your examples and willingness to dialogue made a lasting impression.”**
- **“Most interesting thing we’ve done during Școala Altfel.”**



**CORPORATE GETAWAY**







# THE CONCEPT

- **Start your day with coffee and 5 inspirational images shared by Mugur**
- **Stories of strategy, focus, and resilience**
- **Human rights and social responsibility—through photography**



**Trout and Partners Romania**

**Mugur Vărzariu - human rights activist and  
documentary photographer**

**ultimaora@me.com**

**More details regarding Mugur's social implication can be  
viewed at: [www.mugurvarzariu.com](http://www.mugurvarzariu.com)**

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